

WML (Washington)

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REMARKS OF CONG. ASHLEY

Today in Congress at 6:45 P.M. over WML (Washington):

CPYRGHT

JOSEPH McCAFFERTY: "Again the question today: what really happened to the U.S. plane over Russia, and should the President now go to Russia?—were the questions most often asked at the Capitol as elsewhere. It was revealed that CIA Chief Allen Dulles came to the Capitol again yesterday to outline the situation before a special House Armed Services Subcommittee. According to one who was present, the latest Dulles briefing, the plane apparently suffered what's called a 'line-out(?)' at about 70,000 feet, forcing the pilot to come down to a level where he was then forced to the ground. This source reports also that CIA officials have complete confidence in the integrity of the pilot, Francis G. Power, and that they do not know what was involved in his apparent decision to admit that he was a spy."

"Members of the subcommittee voted unanimously to commend Dulles and the CIA for their handling of the whole affair."

"Today too the House Rules Committee put on the shelf several proposals to subject the CIA to closer Congressional scrutiny. Rules Chairman Howard Smith of Virginia said the committee feels this is not the time to conduct public hearings on the subject. Although no vote was taken, this decision too was apparently unanimous. However, some committee members indicated that they favored a closer look at this question at some future time."

"One of several members of Congress I talked to today about the spy incident was Toledo, Ohio's congressman, Thomas Ashley. I asked him if, in view of the situation that has developed, whether the President should go to Russia next month."

ASHLEY: "Well, I think if he has an opportunity to do so, it will be fine. I don't think that the Russians will have any reason to welcome him, however."

McCAFFERTY: "But I think that our spy incident has ruined any chance of anything happening positively at the coming summit meeting which starts on Monday."

ASHLEY: "I think that it is certainly—casts a very dark shadow over the conference. It's perfectly clear, of course, that the position of the United States at this time is far worse than it's been—well, in years, as far as the world is concerned. We have lost the initiative as far as world affairs are concerned—it's obvious—and I think that this recent U.S. plane incident is really given them a tremendous initiative that is very very hard to take for a long time to come."

McCAFFERTY: "There seems to have been some kind of a coalition concerning the CIA incident on this incident. I noticed that in the news today, there's not going to be any effort to press for a joint committee to oversee our intelligence because the feeling seems to be on the Hill, in the executive branch, that the less said, the better, about our intelligence work at this time. Looking a little ahead to November, do you think that this